

REMARKS

By this amendment, independent claims 11 has been amended. Support for the changes to claim 11 can be found, *inter alia*, from page 17, line 17 through page 18, line 12 of the specification. Claims 1-10 were canceled previously and claims 15-24 stand withdrawn from consideration. Claims 11-14 are presented for further examination.

Applicants acknowledge that the outstanding Office Action has been made final. Accordingly, a Request for Continued Examination has been submitted concurrently herewith, and further examination of this application based on the amendments set forth hereinabove is respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, the requirement for restriction between original claims 11-14 and newly-added claims 15-24 is respectfully traversed. A requirement for restriction is proper when (1) the inventions claimed are distinct *and* (2) a serious burden is placed on the Examiner if restriction is not required. MPEP §803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement on at least the ground that no undue burden is placed on the Examiner to examine claims 11-24 together. Pursuant to MPEP 803, if search and examination of all the claims in an application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine them on the merits, even though they include claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In the instant application, the Examiner has failed to show that it would be a serious burden to examine claims 11-14 and claims 15-24 together. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the restriction, and particularly request that claims 11-14 and claims 15-24 be examined together.

The objection to the title of the invention is believed overcome by the foregoing amendment to the specification. The title of the invention has been changed to the title recommended by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 11-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Bunkou, JP 2002-243248 in view of Roh, US 6,430,953, and further in view of Polkinghorne, US 4,843,833 is respectfully traversed with respect to the amended claims.

The invention relates to an air conditioning system having an outdoor unit, an indoor unit, and a system controller for controlling the outdoor unit or the indoor unit. As recited in claim 11, the outdoor unit is connected with the system controller via a leased communication line. As amended, claim 11 further requires that the leased communication line is a wire communication line. By using a wire communication line to connect the system controller with the outdoor unit, control data can be transmitted reliably, i.e., without noise or interference, and with high speed.

Bunkou discloses an air conditioning system having an outdoor unit 7, indoor units 8, converters 6 and a central controller 10. Bunkou teaches power

line communication (via power lines 3-5) between the outdoor unit 7, indoor units 8, and converters 6. However, Bunkou teaches wireless (radio) communication between the central controller 10 and the converter 6. Applicants note that the line 5 between the central controller 10 and the converter 6 in Figure 1 is a power supply line. Applicants further note that Figure 3 of Bunkou shows a wire communication using signal transmission line 13 between two conversion units 15. Bunkou does not teach the use of a leased wire communication line between the central controller and the outdoor/indoor units.

In contrast to the present invention, data transmission between the central controller 10 and the outdoor/indoor units 7, 8 of Bunkou is made using power line communication and radio communication. Disadvantageously, such power line communication does not provide high speed data transmission, and radio communication is susceptible to noise and interference. Pointedly, Bunkou does not disclose or suggest leased wire communication between the controller 10 and the converters 6, much less between the controller 10 and the outdoor/indoor units 7, 8, as required by claim 11.

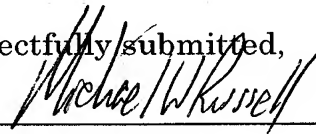
The secondary references fail to remedy the deficiencies of Bunkou with respect to independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the cited references teach or suggest a leased wire communication line for connecting an outdoor unit of an air conditioning system with a system controller.

In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #101077.53988US).

Respectfully submitted,



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